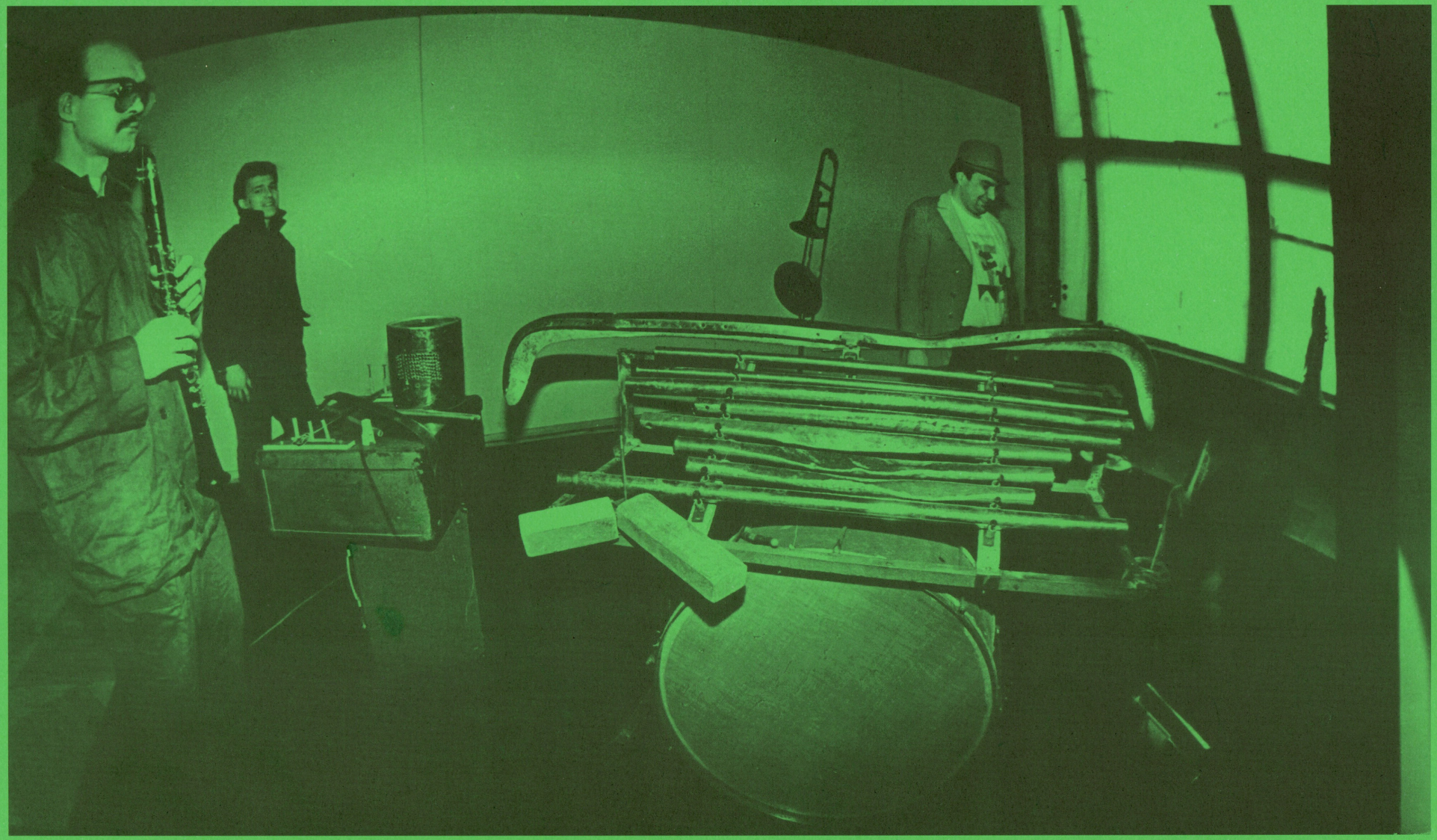


MY WAY

NICO SURROGAT BEHIND THE SOFA NEW ART ENSEMBLE

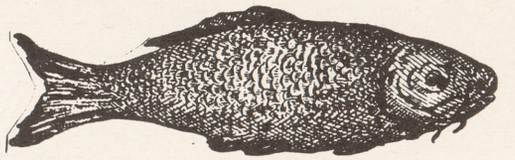
HUGO RACE & THE TRUE SPIRIT ALEXANDER BALANESCU

SERIOUS SOLID SWINEHEARD IS BETTER THAN HOMECOOKED

3,- DM

38

STICHTING HAHAMANDAD



Interview: Ulrich Gernand

Contact: Hahamandad Foundation, Weststr. 38, 4571 HM Axel, The Netherlands. Phone: 0031 (0) 115 561790

1)What were your first steps in this (worldwide) cassette network? How did you get in touch with the underground?

"After mailing a tape to a radioprogram by Willem de Ridder on VPRO, we got a booklet including addresses of netwerkers. We mailed 30 copies of a newsletter and got back 3 reactions. The first respons came from Zan Hoffman (USA), with who'm we are still in contact".

2)It was 1989 in Hulst when I first met you. Was that the start of your concert/ festival -activities?

"Hahamandad started in 1985 in order to promote our own musical projects and other bands in the area. 1989 was the first festival for underground music, mailart, netwerk and communication"

3)As a musician you were part of Selfs Without Shells; can you tell us something about your music (style, production) and releases ?

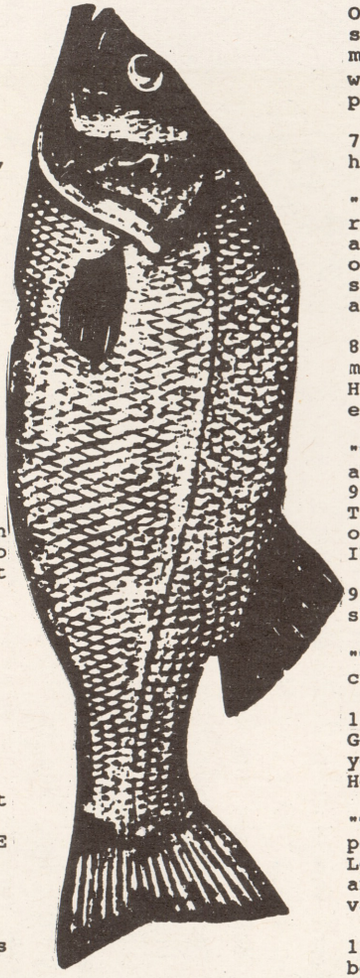
"Selfs w/o Shells started as a duo in 1987 and has worked with many guests, exploring various styles and way's of producing, live and in our studio. Sw/oS develloped from a "new- wave avant garde -pop" duo to a multiproject. This means our releases reflect this devellopment and people from different background have been able to love/ hate/ experience Sw/oS' s musical concept, wich is open to new idea's and ever changing".

4)You (and Messy) are doing solo-projects now. Why have you decided to go this way? Can you explain your new act/music in some lines; are there/ will there be new tape-releases?

"Messy started her solo-project in 1985. My personal solo-projects started in 1979. Since 1988 these activities where promoted in the netwerk scenes. Messy is performing with dark ritual performance-art and has a new release on EE-Tapes(Belgium) called A GIFT TAKEN. My personal projects are AMY LOVE (Multi-Media performance) and HAMANGE (Food-arT). Other projects are being develloped and AMY LOVE releases are planned."

5)Let's get back to your festival activities. / in the beginning there where mainly (very) experimental act's; later the programm was more "open-minded", but still presenting music/ act's wich couldn't be heard at any other place. How did you select the acts who will have the possibility to play at your festivals/ concerts? What's the most important quality they must have?

"The first festival featured BLIND, VOICES IN THE DISTANCE AND CANCEL. I do not agree that the first festivals where more experimental than the later. The programming is (still) open minded to all sorts of styles. We only try to make shure we are dealing with projects wich are working non- commercial"



6)How where the reactions on the festivals? Did you see a change with the people performing and the visitors in all those years?

"Reactions have been various offcourse, but enough good reactions. Of course the public and atmosphere changes as times change. Current situations create an atmosphere where art in general is being commercialized to a max and certainlt this has an effect on the netwerk. Never-the-less there are still a large number of enthousiastic people who keep the idea alive"

7)What are the biggest problems you have to deal with? Do you still have pleasure for yourself when you work for Hahamandad?

"The biggest problem is to make choices when it comes to mail/ releases and concerts. There is simply not enough time to react to all the advertisements, requests for planning tours etc. Offcourse our budget does not allow this either! Personally I try to make shure I engage with projects and contacts wich are fun to work with and avoid 'commercial damage' "

8)Why did you decide to do that Stichting/ Foundation? How many members does it have and what are it's activities?
How can readers in germany support the foundation? What can members expect?

"The foundation serves as a vehicle to promote and devellop musical and cultural projects. (check the lists os activities between june 94 and dec 95). We had some members in 1994 but we've changed this. The best way to support the foundation is to visit the events we organise or to simply order our catalog and newsletter (enclose 1 IRC for postage)"

9)What's the (big) idea behind the stichting; what does it want to show/ tell people?

"The foundation aims to expose alternative forms of art, music, culture by organising events, initiating and stimulating projects"

10)On the festivals one can meet netwerkers from France, Belgium, Germany, U.K., etc., but how is the support in the Netherlands? Did you get articles in the local newspapers and/ or underground zines? How many visitors did come to the Promotion Events during the year?

"The Netherlands has alway's been presented on the festivals by performers as well as some interested alternative music- public. Local newspapers have mostly been helpfull and is doing this more and more as we devellop. The number of people visiting the events variate from 5 to 40/50 people. "

11)Last, but not least : how do you fince your festival/ activities? benefits welcome?!

"Money? @@ Expenses are covered with gifts and the money we get from entree and bar. As you will understand we need gifts/ support to cover the expenses and so we are happy to recieve donations (POSTGIRO rek. no. 0070671, t.n.v. STICHTING HAHAMANDAD, Weststraat 38, 4571 HM Axel, Netherlands)

For newsletter and catalog, please send IRC to ; HAHAMANDAD Foundation, Weststraat 38, 4571 HM Axel, The Nertherlands. "
xxxxxxxxxx *Amanda Man* xxx 21396